

Appl. No. : 10/619,067
Filed : July 11, 2003

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action dated July 27, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claim 37 is the independent claim. New dependent Claims 44-50 have been added, with Claims 38-44, 48 and 50 depending upon Claim 1, Claim 45 depending on Claim 44, Claims 46-47 depending upon Claim 45 and Claim 49 depending upon Claim 48. Claims 37-50 now remain pending. Applicants request entry of the amendments to the claims.

1. The Examiner rejected Claims 37-43 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being allegedly anticipated by An et al., U.S. Patent 4,726,056. The Examiner has referred to various aspects of features of An et al., U.S. Patent '562 for support of the Examiner's position.

In response, Applicants have amended independent Claim 37 to more clearly define Applicants patentable features, namely that the method for processing a calling card call from a caller to determine the rate associated with the call includes: "validating the calling card". In addition, Applicants now recite that the calling card is validated before the request for the rate quote. Support for Applicants' unique and non-obvious validating feature of the method is found in Applicants' original specification, for example in paragraphs [0401] to [402] and paragraph [0798] and in Figure 18.

The An et al., '562 does not touch the method now defined by and amended independent Claim 37, since An et al., '562 has no validation procedure. Applicants respectfully submit that

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since dependent Claims 38-43 depend upon unique and non-obvious independent Claim 37, Claims 38-43 include all the limitations of Claim 37 and are also allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 37-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) have been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejections of pending Claims 37-43 on this basis is believed to be in order and is courteously requested.

2. Applicants have submitted New Claims 44-50 to more fully describe Applicants' unique and non-obvious invention without adding any new matter. New Claim 44 is fully supported in Applicants' specification at paragraph [0796] and Figure 87 of the drawings, while new Claim 45 is fully supported in Applicants' specification at paragraph [0798]. New Claims 46-48 are fully supported in Applicants' specification at paragraph [0799]. New Claim 49 is fully supported in Applicants' specification at paragraph [0404], while new Claim 50 is fully supported in Applicants' specification at paragraph [1410]. New Claims 44-47 recite features of the validating method, validation system and validation databases, while new Claims 48-49 recite Applicants' unique and non-obvious features directed to determining an optimum routing for the call after validation of the calling card. New Claim 50 recites Applicants' unique and non-obvious feature of: "a feature access code of the calling card so that another call may be placed after call completion without having to re-enter calling card billing information".

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SUMMARY

Applicant asserts that Claims 37-50 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone. Please deduct any additional fees that are due from our Deposit Account No. 502200.

Dated: 1/26/06

Respectfully submitted,
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